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amnesty international

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT
1 Easton Street London WC1X 8DJ
United Kingdom

URGENT ACTION

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 21/03/91
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UA 99/91 Fear of Illtreatment/Incommunicado Detention 13 March 1991

INDONESIA/EAST TIMOR: Alejandre Corte Real, aged 27
Manuel Sarmento, aged 25
Boaventura da Silva, aged 27
Jose Celestino, aged 26
Lorenco, aged 26
Miguel Ximenes, aged 27

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of dozens of university students arrested during an apparently peaceful demonstration at Udayana University in Bali on 13 March 1991. Among those arrested were six East Timorese students, named above, who the authorities alleged organized the demonstration and who are therefore believed to be particularly at risk. Four are students in the Faculty of Agriculture, and two in the Faculty of Law.

According to eyewitness reports, a force of some 100 military and police arrested the students at the campus of Udayana University at about 4:30pm. The students were said to have been punched and kicked at the time of their arrest and then taken away in three waiting military vehicles to an unknown location.

The demonstration, which began on 12 March, had been organized to protest aspects of the university's financial policy. However, government and military authorities reportedly alleged that the purpose of the demonstration was political and accused the East Timorese students of being the organizers; these allegations were denied by the students and their colleagues.

In view of past evidence and persistent reports that suspected political opponents of Indonesian rule in East Timor have been seriously ill-treated or tortured while in police or military custody, Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of those recently detained.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Indonesian forces invaded East Timor in 1975 in the aftermath of Portugal's withdrawal from its former colony. Since that time Amnesty International has continued to document serious human rights violations by Indonesian security forces in the territory, including extrajudicial execution, torture and ill-treatment, "disappearance", and political imprisonment.

In the past six months Amnesty International has learned the names of more than 100 East Timorese detained for their alleged involvement in apparently peaceful demonstrations advocating independence for East Timor. Many of those detained have reportedly been ill-treated or tortured in custody. The forms of torture inflicted include beatings with iron bars, batons and fists, burning with lighted cigarettes, slashing with razor blades and immersion for long periods in fetid water.

East Timorese living in Indonesia, especially those who have been politically active, have also been detained and ill-treated by police and military authorities in recent years. In April 1990 three East Timorese university students living in Bali were arrested and badly beaten in custody by police and military authorities. Fellow students who tried to intervene with the authorities on their behalf were reportedly threatened with death by a military officer of the District Military Command (KODIM).

☎ (44)(71) 413 5500 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502 FAX: 956 1157

**Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working for the international protection of human rights. It seeks the *release* of men and women detained anywhere because of their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religious creed, provided they have not used or advocated violence. These are termed *prisoners of conscience.* It works for *fair and prompt trials* for *all political prisoners* and works on behalf of such people detained without charge or trial. It opposes the *death penalty* and *torture* or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of *all prisoners.***

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:**

- expressing concern for the safety of the students detained by security forces during a demonstration at Udayana University on 13 March 1991;

- urging the authorities to ensure that the detainees have access to relatives, legal counsel and medical attention;

- appealing to the authorities to ensure that the physical and mental well-being of the detainees is fully protected;

- asking to be informed of the current situation of those detained and the precise reason for their arrest;

- urging the authorities to release immediately and unconditionally those held solely for their non-violent political activities.

**APPEALS TO:**

**Minister of Justice:**
Let. Ismail Saleh
Jalan Rasuna Said, Kav 6-7
Kuningan
Jakarta Selatan, Indonesia
**Telegrams: Justice Minister, Jakarta, Indonesia**
**Telexes: 44205; 44469; 45611 DEPLU IA (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

**Commander-in-Chief, Armed Forces:**
General Try Sutrisno
Pangab
Markas Besar Abri
Cilangkap
Jakarta Timur, Indonesia
**Telegrams: Gen. Sutrisno, Markas Besar Abri, Jakarta, Indonesia**
**Telexes: 46116 MENHUB IA; 44310 DEPHUB IA**

**Regional Military Commander, Region IX:**
Major General Sintong Panjaitan
Markas Besar KODAM IX/Udayana
Denpasar
Bali, Indonesia
**Telegrams: Maj-Gen Panjaitan, Markas Besar KODAM IX, Indonesia**

**Governor of Bali:**
Prof. Dr. Ida Bagus Oka
Gubernur KDH Tk. 1 Bali
jl. Civic Centre Renon
Denpasar
Bali, Indonesia
**Telegrams: Gubernur Bali, Denpasar, Indonesia**

**COPIES TO:**
Minister of Education and Culture
Prof. Dr. Fuad Hassan
jl. Jend. Sudirman
Senayan
Jakarta Pusat, Indonesia

and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 24 April 1991.

— Please take action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the recommended action. If possible, send a telegram or express letter immediately to one or more of the addresses given. Other letters can be sent afterwards.

— Telegrams and letters should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to relevant provisions in international law, such as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

Article 3 — "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

Article 5 — "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

Article 9 — "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."

— The name of Amnesty International may be used, although letters written in a private or personal capacity may be more effective.

— Copies of appeals should be sent to relevant diplomatic representatives in your country.

— In Urgent Action cases, Amnesty International has to act rapidly to prevent the ill-treatment of prisoners. An appeal is issued when Amnesty International believes it has received reliable and accurate information in such cases. It is not always possible to verify all details independently and in some instances the situation outlined in the appeal may change. Urgent Action participants are always notified of any significant new facts.

— Copies of any replies received from government authorities should be sent immediately to your section's Urgent Action coordinator or direct to the Campaign and Membership Department of the International Secretariat. If appropriate, thank the official who has replied and ask to be kept informed about the case.